



GB04/03917



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

REC'D 05 OCT 2004

WIPO

PCT

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or L.C.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

Andrew Gersey

Dated 27 September 2004

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**

SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

THE PATENT OFFICE
C
- 8 OCT 2003
NEWPORT

The Patent Office
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP9 1RH

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

1. Your reference SJB/P11729E
-
2. Patent application number 0323478.8 - 8 OCT 2003
(The Patent Office will fill in this part)
-
3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)
Depuy International Ltd
St Anthony's Road
Leeds
LS11 8DT 6004733002
- Patents ADP number (if you know it)
- If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation ENGLAND
-
4. Title of the invention A Cutting Tool For Use In Orthopaedic Surgery

-
5. Name of your agent (if you have one) Urquhart-Dykes & Lord
- "Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)
Tower North Central
Merrion Way
Leeds
LS2 8PA 1644004

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

-
- | | Country | Priority application number
(if you know it) | Date of filing
(day / month / year) |
|--|---------|---|--|
|--|---------|---|--|
6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number
-
- | | Number of earlier application | Date of filing
(day / month / year) |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
|--|-------------------------------|--|
7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application
-
8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) any named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d)) Yes

Patents Form 1/77

Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form 0
Description 17
Claim(s) 3
Abstract 0
Drawing(s) 6

+6 Qm.

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents 0
Translations of priority documents 0
Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77) 0
Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77) 1 ✓
Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77) 0
Any other documents (please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date



7/10/03

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Edward Rolfe
0113 245 2388

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 0645 500505.*
- Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.*
- If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.*
- If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.*
- Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.*
- For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.*

DUPLICATE

1

A CUTTING TOOL FOR USE IN ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

This invention relates to a cutting tool for preparing a cavity in a bone for receiving a component of an orthopaedic joint prosthesis.

A rotationally symmetrical cavity in a bone can be prepared to receive a component of an orthopaedic joint prosthesis using a cutting tool which is rotationally symmetrical. The cutting tool will usually be an approximately hemispherical shell which is hollow. It will include a formation in its interior so that it can be engaged by an instrument by which rotational movement can be imparted to the shell. The formation can include for example a bar which extends across the shell. The axis of rotation of the shell will usually be coincident with the polar axis of the shell. The peripheral edge of the shell will usually define a plane which is perpendicular to the polar axis. The angle subtended at the centre of the sphere, of which the surface of the shell forms a part, between the peripheral edge at two diametrically opposite points will generally be close to 180° , for example at least about 170° . The cutting tool will have cutting teeth on its external spherical surface so that it cuts the bone to form the cavity by rotation when in contact with the bone. The cutting teeth can be in the form of elongate slits, or generally round perforations. Such cutting tools are known, for example as disclosed in US-5203653 and US-5709688. Preferably, the arrangement of the cutting teeth on the surface of the tool is such that the axis around which torque, arising from the accumulated resistance to rotation of the tool when rotated against bone tissue, is applied to the tool is approximately coincident with the polar axis of the tool.

Cutting tools of this kind are used after preparatory steps which include forming an incision and removal or displacement of any obstructing tissue. A tool is mounted on a suitable drive instrument which can be used to impart rotational movement to the tool and inserted through the incision to engage the relevant surface of the bone.

It can be desirable to minimise the size of an incision through which access is gained to a patient's bone to perform surgery on it, especially in order to reduce the period taken for the patient to recover from the surgery. The size of a cutting tool, when mounted on the drive instrument, can determine the minimum size of the incision in a procedure. It can therefore be desirable to reduce the size of a shell cutting tool, while still ensuring that the tool can cut bone to form a cavity of desired shape and size. Current cutting tools exist which have 'cutout' portions so that the shell is able to fit through smaller incisions as its effective width is reduced compared with a full hemispherical shell.

However, it has been found that when cutting tools which have cutout portions arranged such that the cutting tool only has one plane of symmetry passing through the axis of rotation, are rotated against the bone to prepare a cavity in the bone, the surgeon experiences a 'wobbling' or 'vibration' effect, wherein the cutting tool vibrates within the cavity being formed.

The vibration effect experienced by the surgeon causes discomfort to the surgeon using the tool. Further, the vibration of the tool in the cavity can cause a cavity to be formed in the bone which is larger than the volume defined by the hemispherical shell from which the tool is formed, and also which is irregular in shape. This is highly

undesirable as a cavity needs to have precise dimensions so that a prosthetic component can be snugly received within the cavity.

5 The present invention provides a hemispherical shell cutting tool, in which the shell has at least one portion cut out from it such that the peripheral edge of the shell is intact at two diametrically opposite points, and in which the teeth are arranged on the external spherical surface such that the
10 net translational force on the tool resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against the bone tissue is substantially balanced.

Accordingly, in one aspect, the invention provides a cutting
15 tool for preparing a cavity in a bone for receiving a component of an orthopaedic joint prosthesis, in which the shape of the tool is based on a shell having a rotationally symmetrical outer surface, the tool having at least one portion cut out from it, the cut out portion extending from
20 the peripheral edge of the shell toward the pole of the shell, such that the tool has no more than one plane of symmetry passing through the axis of rotation, in which the external surface presents at least two outwardly directed cutting teeth, arranged such that the net translational
25 force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against a rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced.

30

The tool of the invention has the advantage that its effective width is reduced compared with a full hemispherical shell by virtue of the cutout portions. However, the size of the recess which can be formed in a
35 bone using the cutting tool is determined by the shape of

the tool in the regions in which the peripheral edge is intact: this can be the same as in a conventional hemispherical shell in which there are no cutout portions. Accordingly, it is possible by virtue of the tool of the invention for the tool to be inserted through an incision that is smaller than is necessary with a conventional full hemispherical shell, and to obtain a recess which has the same shape as that which is obtained with the conventional shell.

10

The cutout portions that are features of the tool of the invention mean that there can be fewer cutting teeth by which to form the cavity in the bone. However, it has been found according to the present invention that adequate cutting is possible with the tool of the invention, notwithstanding the loss of some of its external surface on which cutting teeth can be arranged.

15

It is an advantage of the present invention that, by arranging the teeth on the surface such that the net translational force on the tool, provided by the teeth resisting motion of the tool as they cut into the bone, is substantially balanced, the tool can be rotated during the cutting operation without the generation of unacceptable transverse vibration movement.

20

25

Preferably the full width of the shell is preserved at two diametrically opposed points. This allows the shell to include a bar extending across the interior of the shell, from one side to the opposite other side, by which the shell can be engaged by an instrument for manipulation. The bar can be provided at the open face of the shell. The bar can be recessed within the shell, at a point between the open face and the interior surface at the pole. The use of a bar to provide a connection between a cutting tool shell and a

30

35

rotational drive instrument is well established and features which are known in this context for forming such a connection can be used in the present invention.

- 5 The cutting tool of the invention can have at least one cut out portion, at least two cut out portions, at least three cut out portions, at least four cut out portions, or more. The number of cut out portions will be selected according to the size of the incision through which the tool is to be
10 inserted to engage the patient's bone, and to the cutting area which is to be retained on the external surface of the shell.

Preferably, the shape, size and location of the cut out
15 portions are such that the centre of mass is on the axis of rotation of the tool.

Preferably, the peripheral edge of the shell is intact around at least about 30% of the length of the circumference
20 of the shell at the edge, more preferably at least about 35%, especially at least about 40%. Preferably, the peripheral edge of the shell is intact around not more than about 80% of the length of the circumference of the shell at the edge, more preferably not more than about 70%,
25 especially not more than about 60%.

Preferably, at least one of the cut out portions extends over at least about 15% of the length of the circumference of the shell at the peripheral edge, more preferably at
30 least about 20%, for example at least about 25%. This can enable appreciable reductions in the transverse dimension of the tool to be achieved.

Preferably, the edges of the cut out portions where the cut
35 out portions meet the intact peripheral edge of the shell

extend radially towards the pole of the shell. However, the cut out portions can have different shapes. For example, each cut out portion can be defined by a chord which extends directly from one edge of that cut out portion, where it
5 meets the intact peripheral edge of the shell, to its opposite edge. Other shapes of cut out portion are also envisaged. For example, a curved edge can extend from one side of a cut out portion, where it meets the intact peripheral edge of the shell, to its opposite side.

10

Preferably, the size of one of the cut out portions differs from the size of another of the cut out portions. It will often be the case that, in order to achieve balance of the tool with the centre of mass on the polar axis, the size of
15 two of the cut out portions will be approximately the same and different from the size of the or each other cut out portions.

Preferably, the size of one of the portions of the shell in
20 which the peripheral edge is intact differs from the size of another of the said portions. It will often be the case that, in order to achieve balance of the tool with the centre of mass on the polar axis, the size of two of the intact portions will be approximately the same and different
25 from the size of the or each other intact portions.

The angle subtended at the centre of the sphere, of which the surface of the shell forms a part, between the peripheral edge at the said diametrically opposite points
30 will generally be less than 180° so that the tool does not generate a cavity whose diameter at the open face is less than the maximum diameter of the tool. Preferably, the said angle is at least about 150° , preferably at least about 170° .

35

Preferably, the shell is intact in a circular region around the pole. This has the advantage of optimising the area of the external surface of the shell in the region in which maximum axial force will have to be withstood. This also

5 has the advantage of optimising the surface that is available for providing cutting teeth and also optimising the strength of the tool so that to enable it to withstand applied axial forces. Preferably, the ratio of the distance from the edge of the circular region to the pole to the

10 ratio of the distance of the peripheral edge of the shell to the pole (both distances being measured along the spherical surface of the shell) is not more than about 0.5, more preferably not more than about 0.4, for example about 0.3. Preferably, the ratio of the distance from the edge of the

15 circular region to the pole to the ratio of the distance of the peripheral edge of the shell to the pole (both distances being measured along the spherical surface of the shell) is not less than about 0.1, more preferably not less than about 0.2.

20

The tool of the invention will generally have at least two cutter teeth which protrude outwardly from the spherical surface of the shell. A cutter tooth can be formed by cutting the material of the shell and deforming the material

25 outwardly. The exposed edge of the cut material should be sharp in order to be able to cut the bone tissue, either as a result of the cutting step or as a result of a subsequent sharpening step. A cutter tooth can be in the form of an elongate slit. Preferably, the tool of the invention has

30 cutter teeth in the form of generally round perforations, especially a plurality of the said teeth arranged over the external surface of the shell. Each such cutter tooth is preferably formed by cutting the material of the shell part way around the edge of a generally round opening, and

35 deforming the material of the shell by bending it at that

part of the edge of the opening where the material is not cut. The transverse dimension of such an opening (which will be a diameter when the opening is circular) is preferably at least about 1.5 mm, more preferably at least
5 about 2.0 mm, especially at least about 2.5 mm.

It is an advantage to use a plurality of circular openings for the cutter teeth because it allows the distribution of cutter teeth over the surface of the tool to be varied. For
10 example, it can be preferred to have a greater concentration of the cutter teeth close to the pole of the tool, and compared with close to the peripheral edge of the tool.

Preferably, the cutting teeth are distributed approximately
15 evenly over the surface of the shell so that the number of teeth per unit area of the external surface thereof is approximately constant over the entire surface. It will be appreciated however that this can only be approximated because of the relative sizes of the teeth and the surface
20 of the shell.

Preferably, all cutting teeth have identical shape and dimensions. Alternatively, the cutting teeth may not all have identical shape and dimensions.
25

Preferably, the cutting teeth are arranged such that the net translational force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against a
30 rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced.

Preferably, the cutting teeth are arranged into sets of cutting teeth. Preferably, there is at least one set of
35 teeth. More preferably, there are two sets of teeth.

Especially preferably, there are three sets of teeth, or more.

Preferably, any of the sets of cutting teeth may consist of
5 two, three, four or more cutting teeth. The sets of teeth
can comprise different numbers of teeth.

Preferably, the teeth within each set of teeth are arranged
on the contacting surface such that the net translational
10 force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the
axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance
of the teeth of each set when rotated against a rotationally
symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is
substantially balanced. However, the arrangement of the
15 teeth on the intact part of the shell in the circular region
around the pole of the tool need not be arranged such that
net translational force on the tool is substantially
balanced.

20 Preferably, the teeth within any of the sets of teeth are
the same distance from the axis of rotation of the tool, and
the length of an arc taken between any pair of adjacent
teeth within any of the sets is equal for each pair of
adjacent teeth within that set.

25

Preferably, the teeth are arranged on the contacting surface
in the form of a spiral. More preferably, the teeth are
arranged in the form of two spirals. Especially preferably,
the teeth are arranged in the form of three spirals. More
30 especially preferably, the teeth are arranged in the form of
four spirals or more.

Preferably, the teeth are arranged in the form of an
interrupted spiral. More preferably, the teeth are arranged
35 in the form of two interrupted spirals. Especially

preferably, the teeth are arranged in the form of interrupted three spirals. More especially preferably, the teeth are arranged in the form of four interrupted spirals or more.

5

It is an advantage for the teeth to be arranged in the form of a spiral or an interrupted spiral, as it has been found that when the teeth are arranged as such, the cutting tool is 'pulled' into the bone as the tool cuts the bone.

10

Preferably, the teeth are arranged so that there is an overlap between the teeth as you move from the equator to the pole of the shell of the cutting tool. It is an advantage for the teeth to be arranged as such, as when the tool is rotated about its axis there will be at least one tooth cutting over the hemispherical surface being produced without the need to wiggle the cutting tool.

15

The tool of the invention can be made from materials which are suitable for surgical cutting tools. Particularly preferred materials include certain stainless steels. The tool can be formed by casting. When the tool includes a bar which extends across the interior of the shell, this can be formed integrally with the shell in a casting operation, or separately and then fastened to the shell, for example by welding. Cutter teeth can be formed on the shell in a casting step, or separate from the step of forming the shell, for example in a subsequent operation involving for example cutting or machining or both.

25

30

Embodiments of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1a shows a schematic plan view of a first existing cutting tool,

Figure 1b shows a schematic plan view of a second existing cutting tool having a cut out portion,

Figure 1c shows an isometric view of the cutting tool of figure 1b,

Figure 2 shows a schematic plan view of a cutting tool according to one embodiment of the invention,

Figures 3a and 3b illustrate the principle behind the arrangement of teeth according to the present invention, and

Figures 4a and 4b show schematic plan views of a cutting tool according to a second embodiment of the invention.

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1a shows a schematic plan view of a typical cutting tool 2 having no cut out portions. As can be seen, the teeth 4 of the cutting tool are distributed evenly over the contacting surface of the tool. The general structure of cutting tools is discussed in more detail below in relation cutting tool 102 shown in figure 1c.

Figure 1b shows a "cut down" cutting tool 102 which is equivalent to the cutting tool 2 shown in figure 1a apart from it has a portion 108 cut out from it (illustrated by dotted lines). As can be seen, the teeth 104 of the cutting tool 102 are no longer distributed evenly over the contacting surface of the tool.

Figure 1c shows an isometric view of cutting tool 102. As can be seen, cutting tool 102 comprises a hollow shell formed from an inert metal such as a stainless steel. The material of the shell is about 0.5 mm thick. The shell has
5 cutter teeth 104 which extend outwardly from its external surface, each being formed by cutting perforations into the shell and deforming the material of the shell outwardly.

The shell has a bar 106 extending across it from one side to
10 a diametrically opposite point on the other side, by which the shell can be fastened to a drive instrument which can be used to impart rotation drive to the shell. Clamps by which the bar can be engaged by the instrument are known in this context.

15

The external surface of the shell forms part of a hemisphere. The angle subtended at the centre of the sphere (of which the surface of the shell forms a part) between the peripheral edge at the opposite ends of the bar 106 is 175° .
20 The shell has one portion 108 cut from it which extends from the peripheral edge of the shell part way towards the pole. The cut out portion is such that the peripheral edge of the shell is intact at the diametrically opposite points where the bar 6 is fastened to the shell.

25

The external surface of the shell includes an intact region
110 around the pole which is circular when the component is viewed in plan (see figure 1b), and whose surface forms part of a sphere. The external surface of the shell further
30 includes an intact portion 112 in which the peripheral edge of the shell is intact.

As discussed above, when cutting tools which have a cut out portion (such as the one shown in figures 1b and 1c) are
35 used, they tend to 'wobble' or 'vibrate'. It has been found

that when the net translational force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against a rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced, the vibrating effect experienced is substantially eliminated.

The balancing of the net translation force provided by the teeth is achievable by suitable arrangement of the teeth on the surface of the tool. This is illustrated in Figure 2 for the tool 102 illustrated in Figures 1b and 1c.

Figure 2 shows a tool 202, which is substantially similar to tool 102 in shape and configuration, having a cutout portion 208, a circular intact portion 210 around the pole, and a further intact portion 212 in which the peripheral edge of the shell is intact. However, the arrangement of teeth 204 on the surface of the tool 202 is such that when the tool is rotated against a bone, the net translational force exerted on the tool by the teeth cutting into the bone, is substantially balanced. As can be seen, the teeth 204 are arranged so that there is an overlap between the teeth as you move from the equator to the pole.

The teeth 204 are arranged on the surface of tool 202 so that each tooth is "balanced" as part of a symmetrical arrangement of 3 or 2 teeth. The teeth 204 shown in Figure 2 are each labelled with a letter from A - S. Teeth having the same letter are part of the same "symmetry pattern". For example, there are two teeth labelled "A" which are part of the same "2 symmetry pattern". This means that they are arranged so that there are two lines of symmetry for those two teeth. There are further teeth arranged in their own 2 symmetry patterns such as teeth "B" to "H", "J", "L", "O", "P" and "S". Also, the teeth labelled "I", "K", "M", "N",

"Q", "R" are each part of their own "3 symmetry patterns". This means that they are arranged so that there are three lines of symmetry for the three teeth each having the same letter.

5

Figures 3a and 3b illustrate the principle behind the "2 symmetry pattern" and "3 symmetry pattern" strategy of arranging teeth.

10 Figure 3a shows a schematic plan view of a cutting tool 302 having no cut out portions and only 2 teeth 304 and 306 arranged in a "2 symmetry pattern", at a particular moment in time when it is being rotated against a bone, in the direction shown by arrow 308. At that particular moment, 15 the teeth 304 and 306, which are cutting into the bone, are resisting the rotation of the tool, and subsequently forces are exerted on the tool in the directions shown by arrows F_1 and F_2 . As the teeth 304 and 306 are arranged in a "2 symmetry pattern", the net translational force exerted on 20 the tool in the 'X' and 'Y' planes (i.e. in the plane perpendicular to the axis of rotation) is balanced. This is because force F_1 is equal in magnitude, and opposite in direction, to force F_2 .

25 Figure 3b shows a schematic plan view of a cutting tool 402 having no cut out portions and only 3 teeth 404, 406, and 408 arranged in a "3 symmetry pattern", at a particular moment in time when it is being rotated against a bone, in the direction shown by arrow 410. At that particular 30 moment, the teeth 404, 406 and 408, which are cutting into the bone, are resisting the rotation of the tool, and subsequently forces are exerted on the tool in the directions shown by arrows F_3 , F_4 and F_5 . As will be appreciated, force F_4 can be resolved into X and Y 35 components as shown by arrows F_{4x} and F_{4y} respectively, force

F_5 can be resolved into X and Y components as shown by arrows F_{5x} and F_{5y} respectively.

As the teeth 404, 406 and 408 are arranged in a "3 symmetry pattern", the net translation force exerted on the tool in the 'X' and 'Y' planes (i.e. in the plane perpendicular to the axis of rotation) is balanced. This is because force F_3 is equal in magnitude, and opposite in direction, to the net force provided by the X components F_{4x} and F_{5x} of forces F_4 and F_5 , and also because the Y components F_{4y} and F_{5y} of forces F_4 and F_5 are equal in magnitude and opposite in direction to each other.

Therefore, it can be seen that as shown in Figure 2, even if all of the teeth are not distributed evenly or symmetrically on the surface of the tool, if all of the teeth are arranged so that they belong to a "2 symmetry pattern" or a "3 symmetry pattern", then at any point in time, the net translational force exerted on the tool will be balanced and hence the tool is said to be balanced.

Therefore, at any point in time, the "balanced tool" will not move in the direction perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the tool as a result of the force of the bone against the teeth. Hence, as there is no translational movement, no "vibration" will be experienced. This is in contrast to an "unbalanced tool" which "vibrates" as it is rotated in the bone due to the translational movement of the tool (caused by an unbalance of forces on the tool) in a constantly changing direction.

Figure 4a shows a further embodiment of a cutting tool 502, which is substantially similar to tool 202 in shape and configuration, having a cutout portion 508, a circular intact portion 510 around the pole, and a further intact

portion 512 in which the peripheral edge of the shell is intact. However, in contrast to tool 202, the teeth 504 of tool 502 are arranged in the form of interrupted spirals.

5 The lines 514, 516, 518 and 520 illustrate how the arrangement of the teeth form spirals. Dotted line 520 illustrates the line along which the tool 502 could be cut to allow a further reduction in profile while maintaining a single cut out portion.

10 Figure 4b shows how the teeth 504 are arranged on the surface of tool 502 of figure 4a so that the net translational force provided on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against a
15 rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced.

As can be seen, the black teeth 504' are not arranged in a "2 symmetry pattern" or "3 symmetry pattern" as described
20 above. Further, the black teeth are not arranged so that the net translational force provided on the tool due to those teeth is substantially balanced. This is because it is difficult to arrange the teeth in the circular intact portion 510 due to the lack of surface area to put the teeth
25 in. However, when the tool 502 is rotated, teeth located near to the axis of rotation will have a slower velocity than those located nearer the equator. Therefore, the force exerted on teeth, by the bone resisting the cutting action of the teeth, will be smaller nearer the axis of rotation
30 than the force exerted on teeth near the equator of the tool.

It has been found that the force on the tool 502 due to teeth 504' located within the circular intact portion 510 of
35 the tool 502 is negligible in comparison force on the tool

due to teeth 504 located outside the circular intact portion. Therefore, it has been found that so long as the teeth 504 outside the circular intact portion 510 are balanced, then even if the teeth 504' within the circular
5 portion are not balanced, the net translational force is substantially balanced, and therefore the "vibration" experienced is substantially negligible.

CLAIMS:

1. A cutting tool for preparing a cavity in a bone for receiving a component of an orthopaedic joint prosthesis, in
5 which the shape of the tool is based on a shell having a rotationally symmetrical outer surface, the tool having at least one portion cut out from it, the cut out portion extending from the peripheral edge of the shell toward the pole of the shell, such that the tool has no more than one
10 plane of symmetry passing through the axis of rotation, in which the external surface presents at least two outwardly directed cutting teeth, arranged such that the net translational force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the
15 accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against a rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced.
2. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the
20 teeth are arranged into at least two sets of teeth, wherein the teeth of each set are arranged on the contacting surface such that the net translational force on the tool in the plane which is perpendicular to the axis of rotation, resulting from the accumulated resistance of the teeth of
25 each set when rotated against a rotationally symmetrical cavity in which the tool is a snug fit, is substantially balanced.
3. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 2, in which the
30 sets of teeth consist of two teeth.
4. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 2, in which the sets of teeth consist of three teeth.

5. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 2, in which the sets of teeth consist of more than three teeth.

6. A cutting tool as claimed in either of claims 3, 4 or 5, in which the teeth within any of the sets are the same distance from the axis of rotation of the tool, and the length of an arc taken between any pair of adjacent teeth within any of the sets of teeth is equal for each pair of adjacent teeth within that set.

10

8. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the teeth are arranged on the contacting surface asymmetrically with respect to the axis of rotation.

15 9. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the teeth are arranged such that their arrangement is that of at least one interrupted spiral.

10. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the teeth protrude outwardly from the external surface.

11. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, which includes a bar which extends across the interior of the shell, from one side to the opposite other side, by which the shell can be engaged by an instrument for manipulation.

12. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 1, in which the shell is intact in a region around the pole.

13. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 12, in which the shape of the external surface of the shell in the region around the pole is generally that of a part of a sphere.

14. A cutting tool as claimed in claim 13, in which the ratio of the distance from the edge of the circular region

to the pole to the ratio of the shell to the pole (both distances being measured along the spherical surface of the shell) is not more than about 0.5.

- 5 15. A cutting tool as claimed in claims 12 to 14 in which
teeth located within the region around the pole are not
arranged on the contacting surface such that the net
translational force on the tool resulting from the
accumulated resistance of the teeth when rotated against the
10 bone tissue is substantially balanced.

1/6

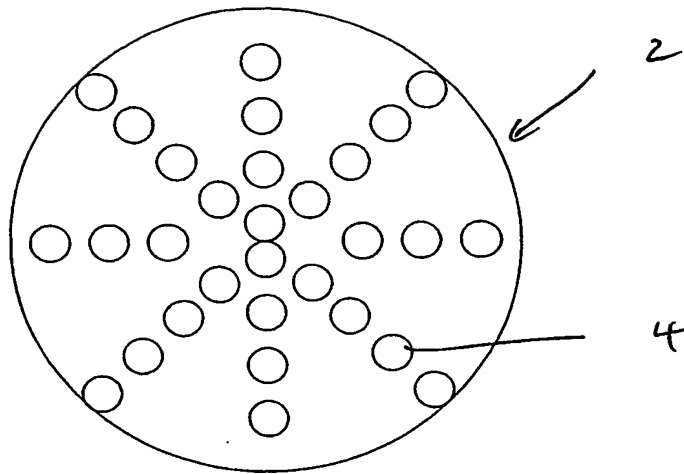


Fig. 1a

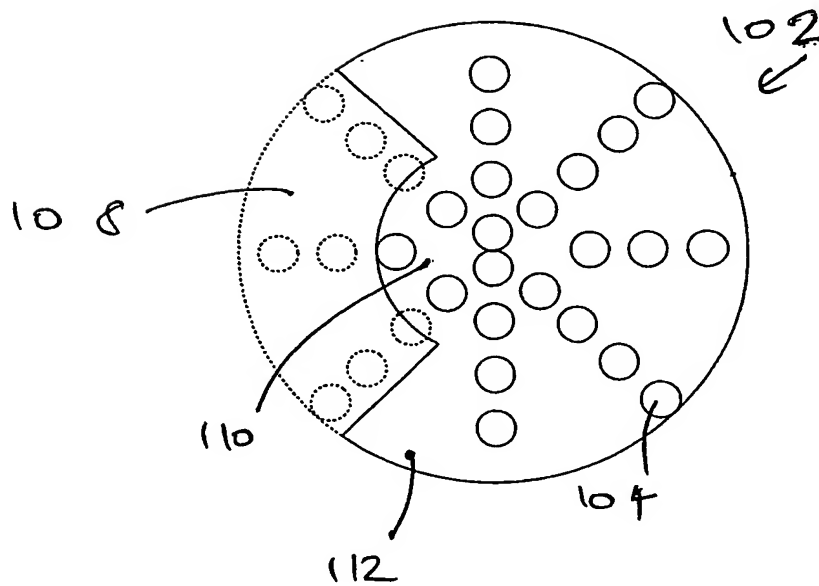


Fig. 1b

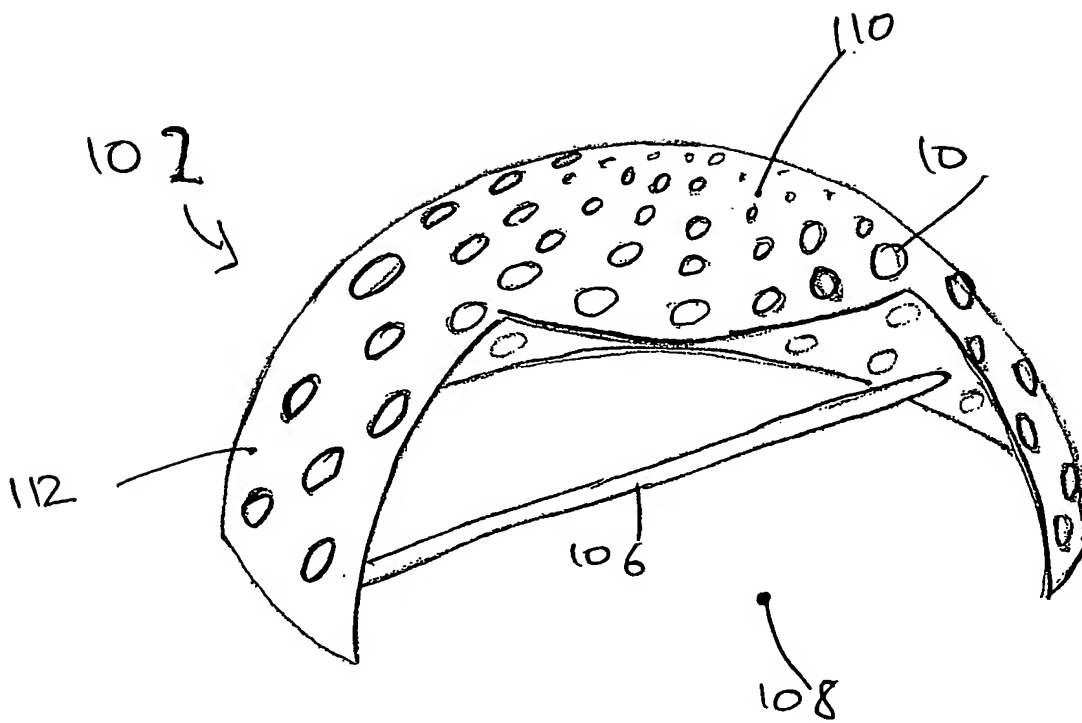


Fig. 1c

3/6

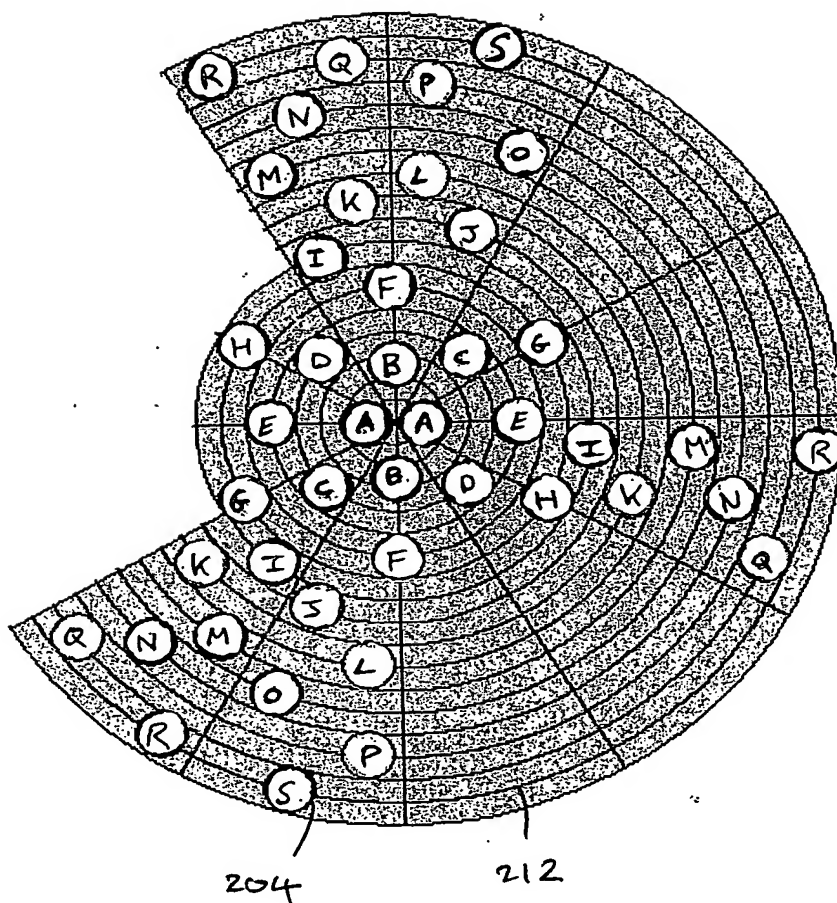


Fig 2

4/6

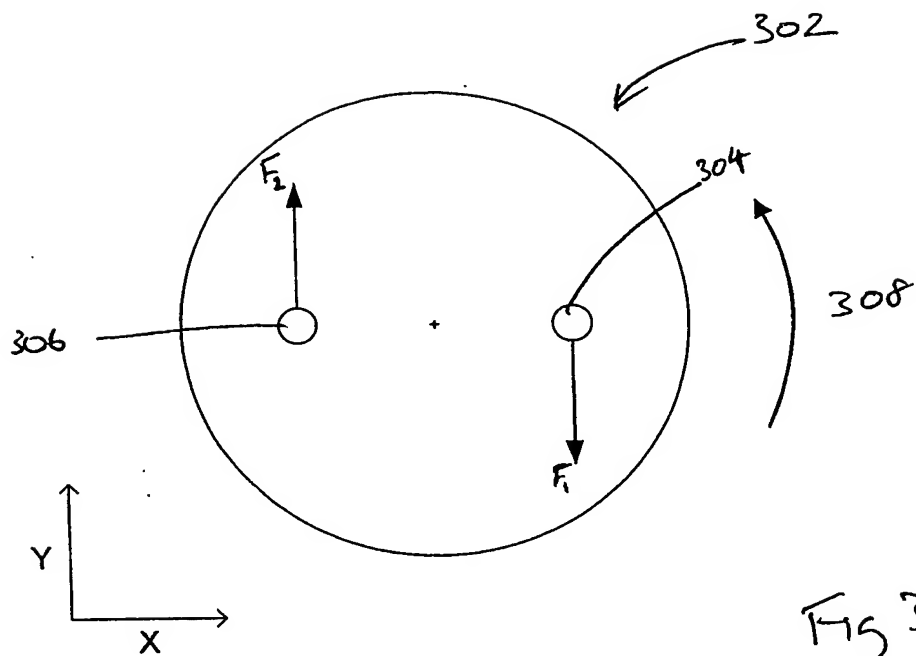


Fig 3a

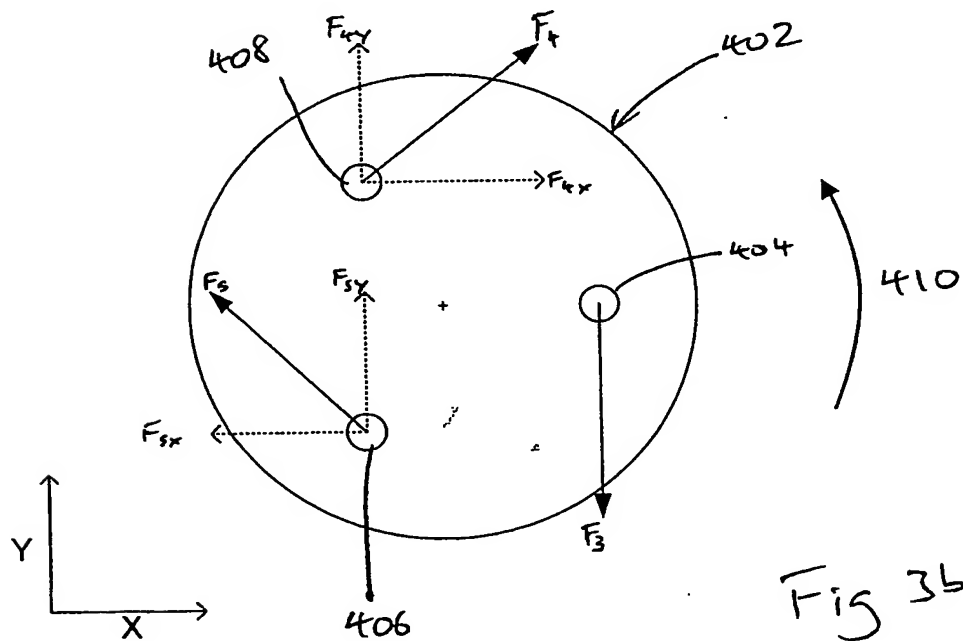
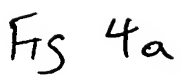


Fig 3b



6/6

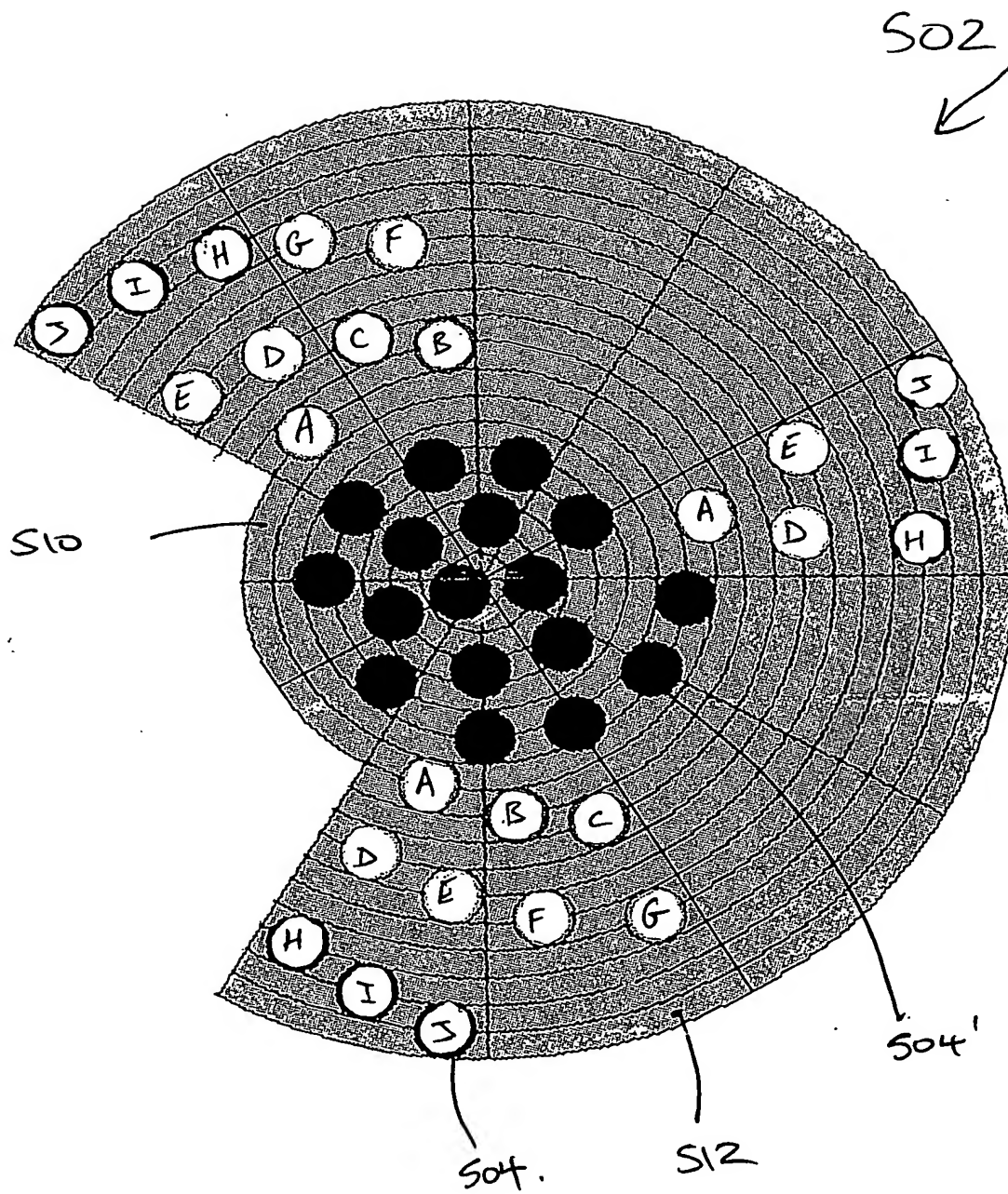


Fig 4b

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☒ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.